

THE
LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"NEC TENUI PENNÆ."

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1883.

Original.

A CASE OF STRYCHNIA POISONING.

BY ANDREW SEARGENT, M. D.

On Friday evening, October 6, 1882, I was called to see Mr. D., aged twenty-eight years, heavy set, very robust and muscular. He had been betting and losing heavily at the fair, occasionally taking a drink, but returned home in the evening not at all intoxicated. Nothing unusual was noticed in his condition until about 8 P.M., when he had a severe convulsion, and went to bed expressing great uneasiness about himself, and begged his friends to send for a doctor at once. His brother, knowing him to be in a gloomy and despondent mood, refused to call in a physician until he had a number of convulsions in rapid succession, which were attributed to whisky. I reached his bedside at 9 P.M., and found him perfectly rigid and opisthotonus complete, with his legs extended, feet everted, arms flexed, and fingers clinched, jaws spasmodically closed, lips and eyelids retracted, pupils somewhat dilated, face blue, and skin bathed in a profuse perspiration. His pulse was very fast and small, and changeable from time to time. Respiration was noisy, shallow, and difficult, apparently due to the intense muscular rigidity present. My patient was speechless but evidently conscious, and afraid to attempt any movement, because each effort intensified the convulsions, which the bystanders assured me had been almost continuous for some time past.

From the above symptoms, I decided at once that my patient had taken strychnia, and made a grave prognosis, though no one at that time had supposed him to be poisoned. Having no chloroform at hand, I prepared for him a solution of chloral hydrate, which he made several attempts to

swallow, but failed on account of spasm of the muscles of the jaw and throat produced, or rather intensified, by each effort to swallow. Although the patient was unable to speak, he was evidently anxious to take the medicine.

I now prepared an enema containing the contents of a vial of chloral hydrate, 110 grains by weight, and about 120 grains of bromide of potash, and introduced it immediately. I next sent a messenger to the nearest drug store for a solution containing 30 grains of chloral hydrate and 60 grains of bromide of potash to the tablespoonful. His room was darkened and made as quiet as possible, and when the medicine arrived he took a tablespoonful through a quill after a number of efforts, although he was still unable to speak, and convulsions followed each other in rapid succession.

At 10 P. M. his condition seemed to be improving, and he asked for a drink of water; the effort to speak produced a violent convulsion, during which I feared immediate death from asphyxia. When he became partially relaxed again, I administered the same dose as before. During the next hour his condition began to improve, the muscular rigidity subsiding so that he became partially relaxed during the intervals between convulsions, but his breathing continued to be noisy and the inspirations shallow, and he was also annoyed by a dry cough which afterward disappeared entirely.

At 11 P. M. I repeated the chloral and bromide-of-potash solution, and his jaws had become so much relaxed that he was able to drink from a glass and engaged in conversation between convulsions, telling me how he had purchased and taken the strychnine, and felt certain that he would yet die from it, although he admitted that he was some better. He continued in this condition until about 12:30 A.M., when he was seized with his last convulsion, five

hours after taking the strychnine. After this convulsion I gave him another dose of the chloral and bromide solution, which produced no inclination whatever to sleep, but on the contrary he was restless and talkative. I remained with my patient until 3 A.M., during which time he complained of great muscular soreness and a feeling of uneasiness that entirely prevented him from sleeping, so I gave him another dose of the chloral and bromide, and ordered him to be kept absolutely quiet.

Visited my patient again at 11 A.M., October 7th, and found that he had rested tolerably well after I left him, had eaten breakfast, and was apparently as well as ever. When asked about his condition, he replied, "I feel awfully broken up and sore," and was apprehensive that he might yet die from some latent effect of the strychnine.

I have written a brief sketch of the facts observed in this case, and would beg leave to call attention to the following conclusions drawn from them:

1. That toxic doses of strychnia act in the same way upon almost all animals, however much the susceptibility may vary.
2. That quite a long interval may intervene between the taking of strychnine and the development of its poisonous effects, which was more than an hour in this case.
3. That the muscular rigidity disappeared, first, in point of time, from jaw and muscles of deglutition; second, from the legs and arms; third, from the spinal region; fourth and lastly, from the muscles of respiration.
4. That if death had occurred, it would have been from asphyxia caused by spasm of the diaphragm and other muscles of respiration.
5. The large amount of strychnia taken at one time, none being removed from the stomach. A reliable druggist put up twenty grains of the crystalized alkaloid for my patient, who will now swear that he took every particle of it at one time.
6. The large amount of chloral hydrate, two hundred and sixty grains, and bromide of potash, four hundred and twenty grains, administered in a short time without producing any of their ordinary effects on the brain or nervous system, showing that they must have been antagonized by strychnia already taken.
7. That in these drugs we have found a physiological antidote to one of the most deadly poisons in our materia medica, and achieved one of the greatest triumphs known in modern therapeutics.

HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

Miscellany.

THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN ON THE CODE.—As a matter of news, in our last issue we gave, editorially, the action of the New York Medical Society in regard to the Code of Ethics which should govern them hereafter. We said, speaking in a pitying sense, "we hope the action they have taken is a wise one." In order to prevent any misconstruction of the sentence just quoted, we would distinctly and plainly say that The Bulletin utterly disapproves of the course taken by the New York Society, and is decidedly opposed to any innovation or departure of the grand Code of Ethics given to us for guidance in our professional relations by the American Medical Association. For of its principles it may well be said—

"Men may come, and men may go,
But they go on forever."

[If opposed to the idea, why hope "it is a wise one?" We are glad to learn that the editor of the Bulletin did not mean what he seemed to mean.]

NEW YORK POLYCLINIC.—One hundred and twenty physicians have taken out the various tickets of the New York Polyclinic, since the opening of that institution, November 7th, last. Three thousand patients have been presented to them for clinical study. A reading-room has been established in the polyclinic, where all the leading medical journals are on file for the benefit of the physicians in attendance.

A YOUNG WAITER at a wine merchant's, about a week ago, says the Lancet, March 17th, accidentally swallowed an iron nail about three inches long. A day or two after symptoms of incipient inflammation of the bowels set in, which, however, soon subsided, and he is now perfectly well, the nail having passed in his stools without any inconvenience to the patient or without any treatment, not even a purgative.

ERGOT in the radical cure of hydrocele, in two-dram doses injected into the sack, is highly recommended by Mr. J. E. W. Walker, in the British Medical Journal.

TEMPERANCE APPELLATIONS.—Hydropots and aquabibs are epithets bestowed by the champions of alcohol in London upon the temperance folk. Alcohollowers, the evil spirit's advocates might be called.

The Louisville Medical News.

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LUNSFORD P. YANDELL, M.D., - - }
L. S. McMURTRY, A.M., M.D., - - } Editors.

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A GENEROUS ACT.

In a recent number of this journal we published a communication from a well-known physician of this city, in which it was stated that the recent action of the New York State Medical Society was nothing more or less than a desire to affiliate with quackery, adding, that since it is often necessary to refer our friends and patients going eastward to physicians, it is important to know those members of the society who have voluntarily severed their connection with the medical profession of the country. Our correspondent requested that we publish a list of the names of the advocates of the new code in an early issue.

We appended at the time an editorial note to our correspondent's communication, saying that in our issue of February 13, 1883, could be found an account of the proceedings of the New York State Medical Society, and by examining the same the leaders and advocates of the new-code movement could be determined. To our surprise we find in the columns of the Medical Record, of New York, the following:

A GENEROUS ACT.—The Louisville Medical News publishes a list of the New York physicians who were active in sustaining the present code of ethics, and now impliedly recommends that the physicians of the South and West send no pa-

tients to these gentlemen, on the ground that they are dishonest, mercenary, and desirous of affiliating with and encouraging quackery.

The misrepresentation is apparent and positive. A simple reference to the published proceedings of the society, furnished this journal by a member of that society, is perverted into a publication of a list of the advocates of the new code. In addition to this the communication of our correspondent causes the following expressions from some prominent New York physician who was interviewed by a reporter of the New York Tribune. We extract from the metropolitan daily the following:

It is said that the specialists among the liberals who so far forgot their duty to science and humanity as to confess a willingness to consult with homeopathic physicians have been made to feel the inconvenience suffered by the land-owners and agents in Ireland. They have been "boycotted" by the conservatives. The loud-voiced champion of this method of conversion is the Medical News, a journal printed in Louisville, Ky., which manifests great concern in New York affairs. This journal has printed a black list of the liberals who voted in favor of the new code, and called on all other physicians to withhold business from them. "It is significant," said a liberal yesterday to the Tribune reporter, "that the most valiant defenders of the profession are in Tuscaloosa, Louisville, and the Louisiana cities.

Comment upon these expressions of our New York friends is scarcely necessary. The advocates of the new code have indignantly repelled, at all times, the most remote intimation of any mercenary interest in the movement; yet upon the slightest suggestion of an interference with consultations they exhibit the utmost sensibility. An allusion to this feature of the movement by a correspondent in our columns brings upon us the above maledictions, with the cry of persecution. The bearings of it all are quite evident. Our brethren in New York who have advocated the new-code movement surely have not gained the fullest self-approval when they wince at the mere suggestion that a list of their names be given to the profession. Surely they can not expect to affiliate with irregular practitioners and retain the partiality, esteem, and confidence

of the profession of the whole country. The business feature of the movement is inevitable, and it was supposed that it had been fully considered.

While denying the charge that this journal has published a "black list" of the advocates of the new code, and called upon the profession to withhold business from them, we must confess that here in "Louisville, Tuscaloosa, and the Louisiana cities" the profession is so old-fashioned as to still cherish the traditions of medicine, cultivate an *esprit de corps*, and hold the honor and dignity of medicine as a profession in high esteem.

THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

In another column will be found an outline of the proceedings of the State Board of Health of Kentucky at its recent meeting in this city. We learn that a resolution was adopted instructing the secretary to furnish regularly for the press reports of the proceedings. This is a move in the right direction. Hitherto there has been no way to learn any thing of the board's proceedings or of its plans except what may be found in the annual reports, of which only a limited number are distributed. It is eminently proper that the board should, like similar organizations elsewhere, publish in the medical press an account of its proceedings, and thus place itself *en rapport* with the profession.

It will be observed that the board purposes undertaking some genuine practical work, which, if energetically executed, must prove of value to the public health and to sanitary science. There are strong indications that the board will at an early day give evidence of certain reforms which are essential to its efficiency and success. At present the really earnest workers in the board are contending with almost insuperable obstacles. The two members who never attend the sessions of the board, and manifest no interest in its success, should energetically enter into the work or resign. We hope the board will soon be in such

shape as to discharge its duties with benefit to the public, with aid to a growing science, and credit to the profession and its own membership. The criticisms made by the medical press upon the board's methods and its failure in the execution of practical sanitary work, together with the agitation of the subject at the meeting of the State Society last week, will in the end prove of wholesome influence. The interest manifested in the subject by the profession of the State may be taken as almost a guarantee that, when convinced of the earnestness and capabilities of the board, the profession will give its co-operation to the successful execution of its plans. This co-operation is essential to success. We believe the board has determined upon an active and energetic course, and hope its efforts will be rewarded with abundant success.

THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—While some most excellent and valuable papers, together with the reports of clinical observation and practice, were presented at the recent meeting of the Kentucky State Medical Society, the attendance, activity, and interest on the part of the membership as a whole was by no means up to the standard of the past ten years. The society has too much of age and tradition to suffer permanently from any temporary lack of interest or exertion on the part of its membership, and such occurrences are usually the result of accidental causes. The committees appointed for the next session should begin at once to formulate plans for the preparation of such reports as will be worthy of discussion and publication. The selection of the next place of meeting was a happy one, and the society is most fortunate in having elected with perfect unanimity Dr. J. N. McCormack, of Bowling Green, to the presidency. His services to the society made such recognition eminently appropriate, and his characteristic energy will be manifest in the proceedings of the session of 1884. We publish elsewhere the proceedings in full.

Medical Societies.

THE KENTUCKY STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Twenty-eighth Annual Session, held in Louisville, April 4, 5, and 6, 1883.

The society convened in regular session at Masonic Temple at 12 M. on Wednesday, April 4th, with the president, Dr. A. D. Price, of Harrodsburg, in the chair. Dr. Coleman Rogers, of Louisville, as chairman of the Committee of Arrangements and Credentials, welcomed the society to the city in the following address:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Kentucky State Medical Society: As chairman of the Committee of Arrangements and on behalf of the medical profession of Louisville, it becomes my pleasing duty to bid you a cordial welcome to our city. Two years ago, at Covington, by a resolution, it was seen fit to make Louisville the permanent place of meeting, thus doing away with the time-honored custom of going by invitation to various points in the State. In the wisdom of some it was also thought best that the meetings of the society should be devoted strictly to purely scientific matters; that the minds of the members should be only on business thoughts intent, and that the elements of conviviality and pleasure, other than that purely intellectual, should be ignored.

For these reasons the committee have made no arrangements for your entertainment other than those conducive to the comfort and convenience of the society while in session. We have made no provision for a banquet or for any thing calculated to divert all these learned Thebans from the business aspects of the meeting. But our hearts and our homes are open to you all, nevertheless.

This is not the time to discuss the propriety of meeting every year at the same point and of discarding so much of the pleasurable features of our annual meetings. While the main object of all State medical societies is the discussion of scientific topics, it can not be denied that the interest attaching to them is largely increased by the addition of something which softens the tedium of dry discussion and debate. It remains to be seen whether the membership of the society will continue to enlarge by meeting always at one point, and whether the attendance will increase when there is lacking that recreation which is afforded by members meeting in both convivial and scientific converse their confrères in different sections of the State.

With the hope that your visit here will be both pleasant and profitable, and that our work will reflect credit on you as physicians and on our noble calling, we again bid you welcome.

The report of the treasurer, Dr. Edward Alcorn, of Hustonville, was presented by the secretary and, on motion, was approved. The secretary, Dr. L. S. McMurtry, of Louisville, made his annual report. Letters were read from Prof. S. D. Gross, M.D., and Dr.

J. J. Woodward, both honorary members of the society. The report of the secretary dealt in detail with the correspondence and publications of the society during the past year, and, on motion, was received and approved. The following letter of Prof. Gross was listened to with attention and was highly appreciated by the members:

My dear Dr. McMurtry: I have received your card of the 8th instant, inviting me to attend the meeting of the Kentucky State Medical Society on the 4th of April, at my old, well-cherished home, and at the same time contribute a paper. I need hardly say how deeply I regret my inability to be with you on an occasion which will no doubt be rich in enjoyment and rich in contributions to medical science.

Forty-two years have elapsed since my then colleague, the lamented Drake, and I were deputed by the Medical Faculty of the University of Louisville as delegates to attend a convention at Frankfort, called at the instance of Dr. George Sutton, of Georgetown, to assist in the formation of a State medical society, of which the present society is the offspring. The attempt was a signal failure, and it was not until the following year, if indeed so soon that, Dr. Sutton's efforts were crowned with success.

Since the date of my visit vast changes have taken place in and outside the profession. Medical education has been greatly improved, and the practice of medicine has assumed many new features, while many of its branches have been completely revolutionized. All my old colleagues, with the exception of two, of the University of Louisville, are dead, and most of my old personal friends of Louisville are moldering in their graves. My own days are numbered; time has made me an old man, and I can not expect to attend many more public meetings of any kind. All that I can do is to send you and all the rest my love, and my best wishes for your and their prosperity and happiness. Always truly your friend,

S. D. GROSS.

The Committee on Credentials reported, through its chairman, that the following applications for membership had been received and considered, and the gentlemen were recommended for membership: Dr. E. S. Moss, of Williamsburg; Dr. Ancil Gatliff, of Williamsburg; Dr. Walter Byrne, of Russellville; Dr. R. Maupin Ferguson, of Louisville; Dr. William C. Webb, of Bryantsville; Dr. T. D. Finck, of Louisville; Dr. W. A. Jemison, of Eminence; Dr. J. A. Stucky, of Lexington; Dr. Geo. Horine. On ballot the above applicants were elected to membership.

Dr. T. B. GREENLEY, of Jefferson County, made the report on the Progress of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. He referred to the extensive use being made of iodine and iodide of potash as well as carbolic acid in the treatment of typhoid and malarial fevers. His experience in the treatment of intermit-

tents is favorable to the further trial of the sulphites and hyposulphites. Borax in epilepsy he recommends when the bromides fail. Atropine and ammonium bromide have likewise served, in his experience, as useful remedies in the treatment of spasmodic affections. The treatment of vomiting by the use of water as hot as it can be borne he refers to as an old treatment revived to subserve a useful purpose. The *viburnum prunifolium* has maintained the reputation it acquired upon its advent into professional favor as applicable to threatened abortion. *Eucalyptus globulus* has failed to meet the expectations indulged by those who anticipated in its use a valuable substitute for the preparations of Peruvian bark. *Pinus canadensis*, for chronic diarrhea and inflammations of the urinary passages, Dugong oil, as a substitute for cod-liver oil, calcium chloride, in glandular enlargements, have each been productive of good results in the author's hands. The writer referred to the changes made in the quantities of active ingredients in the standard preparations in the new pharmacopœia, and wisely cautioned that care be exercised in designating the quantities of them when ordering them in prescriptions.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. P. B. Scott, of Louisville, called attention to the fact that one advance in the preparation of medicines had been overlooked by the author of the report on therapeutics, and he therefore exhibited for inspection the compressed tablets as illustrating an elegant mode of administering the various alkaloids in practice. Their porosity and therefore ready solubility are qualities that recommend them to the attention of the profession.

Dr. J. A. Larrabee, of Louisville, commended the spirit of the author in the pains he had taken to elaborate his paper. "Sometimes in our progress, however," said he, "it is best to call a halt for the sake of a rest. It seems to me that a committee should be appointed to report upon the efficacy of *old* remedies and the *new* uses of them by various modes of administration to meet various indications. It must be admitted that we are running to an extreme in the use of new remedies; and at the present time, if we indorse every thing that comes before us, we will soon have to choose of the medicines prepared instead of medicines in general to suit the disease. However paradoxical it may seem, it is just possible for us to take a step in advance in this matter by taking two backward. A discussion upon

the proper use of the medicines we must rely upon in the treatment of disease would be quite as profitable as a discussion upon the subject of new remedies. A very important point entering into the consideration of medicinal effects relates to time and mode of administration: by different doses at different intervals different results are secured. We use ipecacuanha in one dose to provoke emesis, in another to check it; we use it to increase the tone of the stomach; we use it to cause increased secretion and fecal dejections when these have been arrested by some diseased process. This applies to all medicines. In other words, there is no fixed dose of any medicine. This is subject to modification with respect to time, manner, and mode of administration, according to the effect to be produced. Many practitioners fail to regard the elimination of medicine as an important factor. Some have their effects, and pass out of the system in a given period of time; others in quite a different period; therefore a continuous effect is acquired by knowledge of the period of elimination and attention to the interval between administration of doses. These and many other considerations make it important that more attention should be given to our old, long-tried and reliable articles instead of spending time in this fruitless search for remedies (specifics)."

Dr. J. W. Holland, while agreeing with the preceding speaker in the main, called attention to the unreliability of manufactured preparations of the standard medicines, and particularly the unreliability as to quantity in quinine pills said to contain one, two, and three grains each. The speaker claimed to have knowledge that justified the statement that such were almost invariably of short weight, no matter by what manufacturer made. In many instances pills marked two grains contained but a fraction over one, and others varied accordingly. The purity of the alkaloid in many could not be warranted, not even commended. He referred to an analysis, which is to appear shortly in the medical press of Louisville, on which these statements are founded, this analysis having comprehended pills made by various establishments, not one of which is to be designated in the report.

Dr. W. M. Fuqua, of Hopkinsville, as chairman of the committee, delivered the report on Surgery. Wound treatment first engaged the speaker's attention. Under this head reference was made to antisepsis

as practiced by applications such as carbolic acid and iodoform. The speaker deprecated the almost universal use of iodoform for the reason that absorption of the drug has been followed by unpleasant mental symptoms showing the poisonous effects of the drug when absorbed. Drainage received fit consideration in this connection. The field of micro-organisms was hastily scanned, and the lessons of the first discoveries in the field applied to those of later dates, and the influence upon future investigations foreshadowed. The germ theory, as applied to typhoid, malarial, and scarlet fever, found in the author a firm believer and forcible exponent. "Peritoneal surgery," the speaker said, "has grown with the growth of the antiseptic system. In the treatment of wounds involving the peritoneal cavity, Sims voices the most recent utterance when he declares that unfavorable terminations are the result of septicemia and not peritonitis, and that this septicemia is due to effusions into the peritoneal cavity. Resection of the pyloric extremity of the stomach has been performed perhaps fifteen times. Three thus operated upon are still alive. The probabilities are that the operation will never be recognized as a justifiable procedure. Operative procedures for the relief of intestinal obstruction, colotomy; rupture and gunshot wounds of the bladder; hernia, and operations upon the chest and lungs were each in turn considered. In gynecology the greatest advances have been made by native talent. Operative measures for the relief of epilepsy, as recently shown by Dr. Alexander, are likely to be productive of benefit, and will shortly, in the estimation of the speaker, prove of recognized utility. Shock, that peculiar and often fatal condition incident to grave surgical operations and injuries, was not clearly understood until of late years. Light has been shed upon the subject by recent investigations which indicate that the condition is one of paralysis of the abdominal vessels and nerves, for the relief of which alcohol, ammonia, and especially ether and atropia are most efficient.

Discussion of this paper was confined to a consideration of the subject of antiseptics, and particularly the dangers attendant upon the use of iodoform.

Dr. J. M. Mathews, of Louisville, said: "I have been highly edified by the paper. There was one point that impressed me from the beginning, and I wish to call attention to it in order to elicit a discussion from the society. The author mentions that the

ideal antiseptic has not yet been discovered, and in making this assertion he speaks of iodoform in disparaging terms because of the danger attending its absorption. In a special way I have used this agent for a number of years; and notwithstanding the fact that I have seen daily in medical journals and heard it spoken of as being dangerous, I have used it freely without once having reason to suspect that by its application I had done the patient harm. In treating diseases of the rectum I have used it freely, packing an ulceration with it as many as three or four times a week, and continuing this for three or four weeks, until a healthy action had been excited. I have yet to meet a single case wherein any deleterious or dangerous symptoms followed as a consequence of its use. As to its local effect, I think no surgeon can have a doubt as to its excellence."

Dr. D. W. Yandell, of Louisville, said: "The point raised by Dr. Mathews is one of importance. What the chairman of the committee has said touching the dangers of iodoform does not apply to its application to the small surface to which it must be applied in cases of affections of the rectum, but to the absorption of the substance when used in enormous quantities. I do not infer that iodoform used upon small ulcerating surfaces would be accompanied by any danger. I wish to confirm in my own experience the value of iodoform in rectal troubles. I have found it of especial use in the treatment of hemorrhoids after operation for removal by any of the usual methods. In some cases there is a good deal of active inflammation left, in others a sluggish condition of the parts, a calloused-edged ulcer, or much infiltration in the adjacent tissues. Under these circumstances, but more particularly in the acute ulceration that follows, I have almost invariably gotten good results from iodoform. I quite concur in the remarks of Dr. Mathews touching its harmlessness. I have never known a patient to complain of it, nor, in fact, any ill from it at all. I think it has been much overrated because it has been used in too many conditions. As has been said of Martin's bandage, the only trouble with it is that it does too much. I am sure that in many forms of ulceration, and particularly in venereal ulcers, it is a valuable addition to our surgical remedies."

Dr. D. S. Reynolds, of Louisville, while quite agreeing with the gentlemen with reference to the importance of the use of antiseptics, recognizes a great difficulty in the

want of a selection of the proper kinds of antiseptics for particular conditions. Thus, the chloride of sodium is an efficient antiseptic in acute purulent inflammations of the mucous membranes, while boracic acid is applied with better results to those of a chronic form. Thymol and eucalyptol are of like benefit in the treatment of those inflammations which become septic by becoming purulent, as in the cavity of the middle ear, the tear-passages, and other similar conditions. The *aspergillus albicans*, which invades the external ear, is destroyed perhaps more readily by eucalyptol and thymol than by other agents, though boracic acid is not to be neglected in fungoid growths of this character. The *tinea tonsurans*, which invade the hair follicles, are quickly destroyed by boracic acid. When we are able to classify the germs we shall then be able to arrive at some definite conclusion as to the selection of the germicide applicable.

Dr. Holloway, of Louisville, thought it would be better to classify these remedies as germicides rather than as antiseptics. So far as iodoform is concerned, he looked on its action as simply alterative; the same is true of the local action of carbolic acid.

In speaking further of the subject, Dr. Fuqua related two cases that came under his own observation in which the persistent use of iodoform resulted in mental derangement to such an extent as to make it necessary to withdraw it.

Dr. Andrew Seargent, of Hopkinsville, stated that, during his term of service as interne at the Louisville City Hospital, iodoform had been used according to Col. Seller's directions for the use of his eye-water; that in the venereal wards it had received the designation of the ward cologne, and, so far as his observation had extended, it had produced no injurious constitutional effects.

Dr. D. W. Yandell, of Louisville, concluded that in those cases in which the use of the drug was followed by unpleasant manifestations they arose from some idiosyncrasy of the patient.

The nominating committee was then announced, and the society adjourned to meet at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Dr. Turner Anderson, of Louisville, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, made the following report from that committee:

President—Dr. J. N. McCormack, of Bowling Green.

Senior Vice-President—Dr. J. M. Riffe, of Covington.

Junior Vice-President—Dr. J. M. Harwood, of Shelbyville.

Secretary—Dr. S. M. Letcher, of Richmond.

Assistant Secretary—Dr. J. S. Moore, of Lebanon.

Treasurer—Dr. H. Brown, of Hustonville.

Librarian—Dr. A. M. Vance, of Louisville.

Bowling Green was recommended as the next place of meeting.

On motion the report of the committee was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Anderson then read the following resolution, which the Committee on Nominations recommended for adoption by the society:

Resolved, That the Kentucky State Medical Society receives with regret the resignation of Dr. L. S. McMurtry as permanent secretary.

Resolved, That the thanks of the society be accorded Dr. McMurtry for the able and faithful manner in which he has discharged his duties, and for his untiring devotion to the interests of the society.

On motion the above resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following Committee of Arrangements and Credentials was appointed for the next session: T. J. Townsend, chairman, Bowling Green; W. E. Hatcher, Bowling Green; J. F. McElroy, Bowling Green; Walter Byrne, Logan County; J. P. Thomas, Christian County.

The first paper read at this session was a report of the Committee on Medical Ethics, by Dr. F. J. Yager, of Campbellsburg.

Dr. PRESTON B. SCOTT, of Louisville, was announced to make the report of the Committee of Obstetrics. He read instead a paper on the subject of Disorders of the Menstrual Function. "Many young women," said the speaker, "suffer from dysmenorrhea, and in fact the functional disorders of menstruation have steadily increased. Pain, scanty and irregular monthly flow are the prominent features. Conditions which impair nutrition and depress nerve-force are the leading causes. The results are recurrent suffering, sympathetic disorders, reflex disturbances, and, in due time, local changes. In view of future married life, Emmet's tables show how large here is the field of preventive medicine. It is to this class of sufferers, and it is a very large one, attention

is directed. A few days since two young ladies, sisters, aged nineteen and twenty-one, came into my office looking the picture of blooming health. One had only a scanty flow, followed by severe frontal neuralgia after every monthly period. The other went to bed with fearful cramps for two days. They had been suffering thus for two years, and for the first time now had come to seek medical advice. Now Emmet has given us some valuable statistics, showing how much the health and capabilities of woman have been influenced by disorders of early menstruation. I asked a young society lady, not long since, how many of her friends suffered as she did? She answered, 'Nearly all of them suffer severely; many have to remain in bed.' These conditions, the speaker claimed, were due to the mode of life of women and girls at the present time. He cited the fact that it is no uncommon thing for as many as eighty girls and women to be seated in one room sewing in dress-making establishments in this city. Many others labor in factories from seven in the morning till six in the evening, in defiance of an undeveloped function struggling into healthful regularity. The speaker alluded to the deleterious effects of the forcing system of education prevalent in this rapid age. With respect to treatment it must ever be borne in mind that this function is a monthly cycle of nerve-force intensifying as it reaches its maturation, with a flow of blood and mucus, healthful, complete, and painless. To reach this end he directs his treatment to a period of apparent rest, a period of approach, and the period of actual flow. One of the chief difficulties the speaker has met has been to have patients keep their count and have a due regard to the circumstances of their living in so far as that influences the course of the flow. In the intervals their pain is forgotten, and hence, as a class, they are fastidious in regard to the taste of the medicines. Arsenic, strychnia, iron in the form of lemonade, as recommended by Goodell, all serve a useful purpose when given with due regard to the indications. At the approach it will be found necessary to resort sometimes to sedatives, sometimes to stimulants; for the former the pulsatilla anemone has stood the test of six years' constant application. The principal indication in all cases, however, is to utilize the interval of repose in restoring to a proper balance the depressed nerve-force. Medicines alone will often fail.

Dr. J. M. Matthews, of Louisville, said:

"I am sure the society is instructed by this paper. One point in particular impressed me as of importance, and that was with reference to the reflex disturbances which sometimes occur in these cases of obstructed menstruation. Several years ago I met Dr. Scott in consultation in a case of this kind. It was then very singular to me, and at that time his instruction was so explicit and natural that I have never forgotten it. Before this girl could be examined it was necessary to break down the hymen, behind which was such an accumulation of offensive material as it had never been my experience to meet before. The relief which followed was immediate and permanent, affording an illustration of the value of determining exactly the existing conditions in each particular case.

Dr. McCormack, of Bowling Green, said, "The great value of this paper is found in its practical character throughout. It is just the character of paper that aids one in the treatment of cases that arise daily. I agree with Dr. Scott in attaching importance to preventive measures here as elsewhere."

Dr. William Bailey, of Louisville, suggested the importance of teaching patients the necessities that call for obedience to nature's laws. In the last twenty-five years physicians have gone to an extreme in the examinations of married women. Many of the disorders of the sexual system are dependent upon constitutional disease, not local trouble, and as such are better relieved by constitutional treatment. He objected to the physical examination of girls.

Dr. Pinckney Thompson, of Henderson, regarded the frequency of personal examinations as the besetting sin of the profession. There can be no doubt that local treatment, in many cases applied by ignorant and unskilled hands, is productive of many of the conditions from which womankind suffer. The author of the paper did not, in his opinion, overestimate the injurious effects of the modern system of female education. Among girls raised in the country, who are not subjected to these conditions, such disorders are exceptional.

Dr. J. N. McCormack, of Bowling Green, read a paper on Hygiene, which was for the most part devoted to a consideration of the duties and powers of boards of health, comparing the State Board of Health of Kentucky with the boards of other States. He discussed the duties and powers of local and county boards in relation to State boards, and exhibited a thorough familiarity with the subject.

Dr. J. A. Larrabee, of Louisville, in discussing this paper, said the greatest obstacle to the successful control and prevention of disease is the lack of knowledge and interest on the part of the people on the subject. In addition he called attention to the fact that here in this city, where we might reasonably expect the exhibition of attention on the part of our health authorities, during last fall in one neighborhood there was an epidemic of typhoid fever, during which he saw forty-five cases. All cases were distinctly traceable to one well used for drinking-water, and the well has never received any attention in the way of cleansing, but remains open for use and for the spread of disease.

Dr. J. W. Holland, of Louisville, remarked upon the value of agitation as a means of attracting public attention to matters of public concern, and also as a means of educating the people on such subjects as they should be instructed in. He therefore, as a member of the health board, hailed the evident awakening of interest in all parts of the State in sanitary matters. He thought he could clearly see a growing interest not only among medical men, but among the people at large, in every thing that related to sanitation. The county boards were reporting with increasing regularity and cordially working with increased zeal. All this is good. It is a hopeful sign of the times. He added, "I think it may be safely said that you can estimate very correctly the amount of public spirit in a doctor, the genuineness of his philanthropy and the soundness of his head by his growing faith and activity in all sanitary work. And this being true, as I believe it now is, how much more shall it be true in the future! Much good from sanitary work may be realized in my day and yours—may not be made apparent. But let not that discourage you. We are none the less responsible, for our descendents, our posterity will reap the good of our labors. Our children and our children's children will be made the healthier and their lives made the longer by what is done in sanitation in our day." Dr. Holland then referred to two medical journals of Louisville, the *Louisville Medical News* and the *American Practitioner*, which in recent issues had contained criticisms of the State Board of Health of Kentucky, charging it with inefficiency, lack of industry, etc. He was glad those journals had directed attention to the board. He was sure their criticisms would awaken new interest in the

work. Indeed, without intending it, the journals in question had done the board a real service. • He, for one, as a member of that board, was disposed to thank the *News* and *Practitioner*, more especially the "Country Doctor" in the latter, for what they had said of the board. He dwelt at some length and in positive terms upon the latter's criticisms of the board's work and methods. He closed his eulogy of the board by appealing to the society and the profession throughout the State to uphold sanitary medicine as represented at present by the board, and begged that they "Cheer us if we run, console us if we fall; but for God's sake let us pass on, let us pass on!" In concluding his remarks the speaker addressed himself particularly and pointedly to the comments of the "Country Doctor" in the April number of the *American Practitioner*.

Dr. D. W. Yandell replied in part as follows: "I had not expected to hear any discussion on this floor of the Health Board of this State, and I regret that the time of the society is to be consumed by the words of its friends—if it has any friends outside of itself—scattered in its defense or concentrated into assaults upon its critics. I had much preferred that the board and its doings—if it can point to any doings—should have appeared in other fields and at other times. But the language of the last speaker contains so direct an attack upon the journal of which I am the senior editor that I propose, first, to reply to some of his remarks, then to repel others, and incidentally to tell some things which the 'Country Doctor'—apparently the head offender in the eyes of the health board—omitted in his dialogue, as reported in the number of the *Practitioner* just issued. Yet the champion of the health board, its standard-bearer for this occasion at least, tells the society that this very dialogue, which he so condemns, has helped the board—done it a service by bringing it into notice, if in no other way—and as a member of the board he returns thanks to the journal which contained it. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, you will agree with me that he is thankful for very small favors. The concluding words of his peroration, borrowed from a great English statesman, expressed just what the board does most desire—to be allowed to pass on; to pass on in its sloth, its inattention to its duties, in its neglect of the business of preventing the spread, checking the progress, and mitigating the severity of disease, of lengthening life and abating suffering. But

this is precisely just what the profession in Kentucky no longer proposes to do. For five years, now, the board has been permitted to pass on, with no one to molest or direct attention to its shortcomings. All that is changed now. Henceforward there are those who will direct the attention of physicians all over the State to its defects, its inexcusable sloth, to the general worthlessness of its reports, to the small returns which the board has yielded during its official life; to the fact that in that time the State has paid to the board \$12,500—for what? Why, sir, for four or five reports, if they rise to the dignity of the name, perhaps, as many lectures, a few circulars, and those even borrowed in the main from those issued by boards in other States. Mr. Chairman, do you know that during one entire twelvemonth all that the board did was to send, through its secretary, two postal-cards to each of its members? a total of twelve cards, and that these cost the State for that year the enormous sum of twenty-five hundred dollars? Think of that, sir, and then see if you can divine where the labors, the work of the board, come in! Isn't that play instead of work? Certainly you would not call it work. But let it be so called, if you choose. The word pleases the board. They will repeat it so often that perhaps in time they will come to believe it actually expresses the truth. Did any member here ever read the proper work—the reports of the board? By my faith, I declare the reports are not worth the paper they are printed on! Nor am I alone in this opinion. Not at all. No less a person than a member—a prominent member at that—of the board said of at least one of these reports that it was absolutely worthless. The board is pleased at being noticed. The board is very welcome to such notice—such serviceable notice—such friendly notice as the American Practitioner has given it. The gentleman who has just preceded me considers the journal as inadvertently the friend of the board. You will excuse me for illustrating this questionable friendship by an anecdote whose applicability to his remark must excuse its coarseness: 'He's a friend of mine,' exclaimed a youth who was panting from a chase given him by an injured companion. 'He's a friend of mine, I tell you. I know it by a remark he made when that other fellow was after me. He yelled out, "Go it, shirt-tail, he's a gainin' on you!"' If that kind of friendship is sought by the board, they'll

find it in abundance both in this society and out of it.

"Mr. Chairman: To-day is almost the first time in the history of the board when it has appeared in force on the floor of this society. The members of the board are here for a purpose. Whether that purpose is to-day what it was before 'the dialogue' occurred, I will not inquire. One thing is plain, the gentleman who has just addressed you was selected by his colleagues of the board at its meeting last night to bring on this engagement. He first set forth in his engaging way the doings of the board, then he criticised the critics, assailed a portion of the medical press, and invoked the aid of the society. Mr. Chairman, there has never been a day when the American Practitioner would not have gladly and at once lent its support, whatever that might be, to the board, had that organization given one, yes, one evidence of having merited it. But in all the years of its life it has given not one—no, not one. Inattention and inefficiency are the two words which describe its conduct of the business for which it was created. Worthlessness is the single word which describes its reports. Mr. Chairman, I can not close without referring to the temper which has been shown by the board under the very temperate criticisms made of its doings by the Louisville Medical News. Doubtless the society has seen those criticisms; and no one outside the board can gainsay that while plain they were courteous and good natured. Yet the first one had scarcely appeared before the board rushed headlong into the secular press and put in the *Courier-Journal* a very tart reply—a reply which was in any thing but the spirit which should characterize even public servants, much less that which belongs to the genuine worker in the sacred fields so charmingly described by the last speaker, and which he tells us are so industriously cultivated by himself and his colleagues of the board. Perhaps these remarks will suffice for the present."

Dr. Pinckney Thompson, President of the Board, replied to Dr. Yandell by saying he did not intend to defend the board. The board had done, in his opinion, good work, and could afford to stand on it. No doubt it had committed mistakes; but it straightway set about rectifying them. It was learning every day. He rose in the hope that he might be able to say something to arouse in the minds of the members an interest in the success of the board, and also to correct

some of the erroneous statements of his friend, Dr. Yandell.

"It clearly appears, Mr. Chairman, that just such speeches as Dr. Y. has made, and just such articles as he has published, have been heard and published about every public health organization from the National Board of Health down. The State Board of Michigan has not escaped such and even worse criticism. It has been persecuted. Yet it is composed of good men—of the best men in the State. The health board of Massachusetts even, which has among its members such men as Bowditch and others of like fame, has been persecuted in like manner. The National Board of Health, containing among its members the names of men of world-wide fame, has been absolutely crushed out by the very spirit shown by Dr. Yandell in what he has said and written.

"Dr. Yandell declares the reports of the board are not worth the paper they were printed on. How often and how truly might this be said of the articles contained in some of the medical journals! (Laughter.) The board had found much to do. No doubt there were many things left undone which it was desirable to do, but which could not be done because the board had neither the power nor the funds to do. In Michigan and Massachusetts the health boards have authority to enforce measures for the protection of the people against disease; they also have the money to back them. In Kentucky we have neither. The board has published reports and issued circulars it has so happened, it appears, that Dr. Yandell has not seen. The board believes it has done well. It can do still better if the legislature will increase its authority and its money."

Dr. D. W. Yandell in reply said that "the discussion of the subject during the last half-hour had wrought a wonderful change in the pretensions of the board. At the opening of the discussion the board had done wonders and were on the eve of doing greater things; now the president tells us that the board has failed in many particulars. The truth is, the board is well aware that the comments which have been made upon its inefficiency and the impracticable nature of its feeble efforts by the medical press of this city and the country at large are founded on facts. I would ask the physicians of Kentucky here assembled, if they have been able to witness any where an influence exerted by this board in preventing disease or promoting the public health in this State? The board has done itself no honor and re-

flected no credit on the profession of this State. In real practical sanitation it has done nothing. No efforts have been made to redeem certain portions of the State from preventable disease. Nothing has been done toward gathering the necessary information for improving the public health in Kentucky. Concerning the important subjects of water-supply, food, and kindred topics nothing has been done. These statements are known to be true by every physician in Kentucky as well as by the members of the board."

Dr. J. N. McCormack made a statement as to the work of the board, giving a resumé of its work during the five years of its existence. He gave in detail the labors of the board during the yellow-fever epidemic of 1878.

Dr. THOS. F. RUMBOLD, of St. Louis, by invitation, read a paper on the Treatment of Chronic Naso-pharyngeal Catarrh. Dr. Rumbold holds that chronic inflammation of the nasal mucous membrane is not like the inflammations of mucous membranes in other situations; therefore he holds that the general practitioner of medicine, while he may understand the usual effects of applications of medicines in situations in general, is not capable of treating inflammations seated here, unless acquainted with the action of drugs in this particular situation. The cause—at least one of the most of prolific of causes—of inflammations here is cold, oft-repeated and neglected. He speaks of the modifications which age exerts upon the process as seated here; children and young persons show little inconvenience from exposure to a draft of air, while aged persons suffer quickly and severely. Men die from excesses, women from exposure. In order to successfully treat naso-pharyngeal catarrh, attention to these two points of lowered vitality in the two sexes must ever be borne in mind. Particular attention must be paid to the manner in which females are clad, and if this be not under the control of him who undertakes to treat such diseases, his reputation is likely to suffer in proportion to the failure of his treatment. In the means of applications of remedies to the disease he objects strongly to the douche. It can do no good, because it fails to make the application at the seat of the disease. It may be productive of harm, because it is unscientific. Dr. Rumbold objects to the application of water, either hot or cold, and maintains it is harmful because it is absorbed by the mucous membrane and produces a

greater state of congestion in it than existed before the application was made. Three essential qualities should be possessed by all applications made to the nasal mucous membrane. First, they should cause no pain; secondly, they should cleanse the surface; thirdly, they should be capable of transformation into such a form as to permit their application to every portion. All applications before being made should be brought to the bodily temperature, then they should be applied in the form of spray. Vaseline he recognizes as the best application with which he is acquainted. Two others exhibited and occasionally used were carbolic acid and eucalyptol. This paper was warmly received but not discussed.

Dr. W. O. ROBERTS, of Louisville, reported several cases of head injuries in which operative procedures had been rendered necessary. The first was that of a man who suffered a depressed fracture of the left antero-temporal region. On the eleventh day after the injury he was seized with violent pain in this region. Four days later he had a distinct chill, and soon after it was discovered that he had lost the power of speech and was paralyzed on the left side. A diagnosis of intracranial abscess below the external wound was made, and trephining advised. The operation was done, but the result was nil, no pus nor blood escaping. The next day the patient died comatose. Post-mortem examination revealed an abscess situated on the posterior surface of the cerebrum. The next case was that of a fireman knocked from the cab of an engine. He fell through a trestle-work to the ground below. When found he was insensible, with a gash along the left cheek and a cut on the left antero-temporal region. A sharp pointed rock near him was noticed to be covered with blood and hair on which he had evidently struck. He was roused to consciousness and walked the length of twenty-five cars, when he was put on the train and brought to Jeffersonville, several miles from the scene of the accident. He walked three squares to his home. On the second day convulsions supervened and he soon began to lose the power of speech. By the seventh day it had failed entirely. Late in the evening of the next day I saw him, when it was decided to enlarge the original wound and expose the depressed fragment if possible. This was done; the fragment was discovered and lifted out with a grooved director. Dark grumous blood to the amount of half an ounce escaped. The patient re-

covered and was present at the meeting for exhibition. Another case of a boy, six or eight years of age, was seen four days after his admission into St. Mary's Hospital. The wound occupied the center of the left frontal bone. Several days elapsed from the date of the injury to the ushering in of unpleasant symptoms. The depressed fragment was then elevated, though the trephine had to be used in order to get the elevator under it. Pus immediately began to flow. Later a hernia of the brain occurred, followed shortly by dissolution. Two other cases in which the result of trephining was successful were reported, but your reporter failed to get them.

Dr. D. W. YANDELL exhibited the skull of a woman who was operated upon by Dr. Gross, in 1854. In 1867 she began to have epileptic convulsions, which continued to occur till her death, in 1872. Over the opening made by the trephine in this skull, a fibrous membrane of considerable strength had grown. Just inside an excrescence the size of a pea was formed. From the irritation caused by this it is supposed epileptic manifestations arose. Another case of which he spoke was of a man shot, during the war, in the frontal region, and who, apparently fully recovered, was seized with epileptoid convulsions. In 1867 Dr. John O'Reilly, since deceased, operated upon him, recovering quite a small portion of bone. He made a good recovery, and is alive to this day.

A youth, kicked by a horse, near the center of the frontal bone had a fracture, slightly depressed, but recovery took place without interference. In about two years he began to have epileptiform convulsions, and his temper underwent a change. Dr. Yandell applied the trephine, his epilepsy disappeared, his viciousness passed away, and he is now a useful citizen.

Dr. McCORMACK, of Bowling Green, said, "A case was brought to my office a little more than a year ago to be examined, in order that I might testify as to his sanity. He was twenty-three years of age. Six years before he was struck on the head with a sharp pointed hammer, at which time he fell unconscious, and remained so for some time, but gradually recovered without any symptoms of trouble. He married at nineteen. He continued to all appearances well, until about six months before he came to see me, when he began to complain of great pain in the region of the former wound. He underwent some degree of emaciation. There was distinct depression at this point, though the

excessive tenderness there prevented entirely satisfactory examination. I removed a fairly large section, and afterward another section, and then rasped the edges. He recovered without a bad symptom. The remarkable feature in his case now developed itself. Shortly after he recovered he told me he had no recollection of any thing that had occurred from the day he was struck on the head until the day he was operated upon. I took every precaution to prevent any imposition, but he appeared to show no disposition to deceive me. When he first became conscious, after the removal of the bone, his impression was that a short time before he had been struck on the head. He had no recollection of his marriage. He had bought a small farm and partially paid for it, but he would not believe it until he had examined the records for himself. He appears now to be in perfect health.

Dr. FRANK C. WILSON, of Louisville, reported two cases of tracheotomy, the result in one being successful; the patient, a little boy of about seven years, being present in person. In November, 1881, Dr. Wilson was aroused at night to see the little fellow, who had sometime previously been taken sick with diphtheria invading the nasal passages. A few weeks before, his brother had been attended by Dr. Senteny in the same trouble. The boy's condition in the evening did not seem to demand the attention of a physician, and Dr. Senteny had not been sent for. I explained to the father at once the dangerous character of the affection, and insisted that Dr. Senteny should be called. From that time till the operation was performed one or the other of us was with him constantly, and endeavoring by every means in our power to stay the disease. Nothing availing, and the little fellow growing worse, it was determined to perform it in the middle of the night. The incision was carefully and slowly made, and the hemorrhage stayed before the trachea was opened. The expulsive efforts excited by the passage of air into the opening caused renewed hemorrhage, which however soon ceased. A moist sponge was placed over the tube, which was cleansed about every two or four hours. The boy made a good recovery. The other case occurred in a younger child, and the operation was delayed until the last moment. In this case the child lived three days after the operation, and seemed to die as the result of accumulations of mucus in the trachea and bronchial tubes. Dr. Wilson also exhibited

an apparatus which he had designed to warm the air before its passage into the tube.

Dr. Pinckney Thompson reported two cases of recovery from the operation, in each of which no tube had been used. Other cases in which it had been used had resulted unsuccessfully. He regarded the tube as harmful rather than efficacious, looking upon it as a foreign body in a delicate situation, and in itself sufficient to produce harmful irritation.

Dr. R. W. Dunlap, of Danville, spoke of two cases operated upon by the late Dr. John D. Jackson, both of which recovered. He used the tube in both cases.

Dr. D. W. Yandell reported a case in which the tube had been worn for a period of seven years.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Dr. SEARGENT, of Hopkinsville, reported a case of strychnia poisoning, in which recovery occurred after the ingestion of 20 grains. (See page 225.)

Dr. W. C. WEBB, of Bryantsville, read a paper on pertussis in the treatment of this disease. Though opposed to the doctrine, Doctor Webb looked upon croton-chloral, when properly administered, as a specific. The dose for a child one year old is one grain every four hours; from six to twelve, two grains; but adults seldom can stand more than four grains. It should be given regularly at stated intervals, both night and day; at the end of a week, only in the daytime.

Dr. J. A. OCTERLONY made a thorough and detailed report on the Progress of Dermatology. This paper will appear in full in the American Practitioner for May, 1883.

Dr. W. H. WATHEN, of Louisville, exhibited to the society a case of hollow needles, which he had devised with special reference to the introduction of silver-wire sutures. The needles have different curves, adapting them to operations upon the perineum, vaginal walls, cervix uteri, and to staphylo-rhaphy. These needles are in a general way upon the same principle as those manufactured for the same purpose by Charrier & Co. and Tiemann & Co., but possess qualities rendering them superior to any heretofore offered the profession. These instruments were manufactured for Dr. Wathen by Tafel Bros., of Louisville.

The president then announced the following committees:

Committee on Finance—Dr. J. D. Neet, Versailles.

Committee on Medical Ethics—Dr. Andrew Seargent, Hopkinsville.

Committee on Improvements in Practical Medicine—Dr. T. P. Satterwhite, Louisville.

Committee on Improvements in Surgery—Dr. L. S. McMurtry, Louisville.

Committee on Obstetrics—Dr. J. M. Riffe, Covington.

Committee on Hygiene—D. J. J. Speed, Louisville.

Committee on Improvements in Pharmacy—Dr. H. A. Cottell, Louisville.

Committee on Materia Medica—Dr. J. P. Thomas, Pembroke.

Committee on Ophthalmology—Dr. R. M. Ferguson, Louisville.

Committee on Otology—Dr. Stucky, Lexington.

Committee on Dermatology—Dr. C. J. Walton, Munfordsville.

Committee on Epidemics—Dr. J. M. Harwood, Shelbyville.

Committee on Vital Statistics—Dr. R. W. Dunlap, Danville.

Delegates to American Medical Association—Dr. D. S. Reynolds, Louisville; Dr. L. S. McMurtry, Louisville; Dr. J. A. Ochterlony, Louisville; Dr. W. O. Roberts, Louisville; Dr. Geo. Bealer, Clinton; Dr. H. Brown, Hustonville; Dr. J. M. Riffe, Covington; Dr. L. P. Yandell, Louisville; Dr. J. P. Thomas, Pembroke; Dr. L. B. Todd, Lexington; Dr. W. H. Wathen, Louisville; Dr. J. N. McCormack, Bowling Green; Dr. T. B. Greenley, Jefferson county; Dr. Crawford, Bardstown; Dr. P. B. Scott, Louisville.

The Society then adjourned to meet in Bowling Green, on the first Wednesday in May, 1884.

THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

The State Board of Health held its regular annual meeting in this city yesterday evening, with Drs. Thompson, Dunlap, McCormack, Holland, and the secretary, Dr. J. J. Speed, present.

The secretary reported that, in accordance with the direction of the last meeting, circulars were sent to all health boards, asking information touching any contagious diseases in their counties. Replies have been received from many, showing an increased interest in the general subject of sanitation.

Reports from county health boards were then read. Among those to be specially noted was one from Dr. Knox, of Lewis-

port, concerning an outbreak of smallpox in Hancock County, in which, by prompt vaccination and isolation, the disease was stamped out. There were other reports of the same tenor from Drs. Coleman, of Murray, Robinson, of Warsaw, Baker, of Shelbyville, McElroy, of Bowling Green, Shepherd, of Scottsville, and Pinckney Thompson, of Henderson. Local outbreaks at Henderson, Robards' Station, and Hopkinsville, were clearly traceable to a railroad passenger from Evansville, Ind. The health authorities of Henderson, on learning that there were fifty cases in Evansville, at once declared an inspection quarantine against that city.

On motion, the State Board indorsed the action of the Henderson Board.

Dr. Dunlap gave an account of the arrest of the disease at Stanford by the prompt action of the health authorities there.

Dr. McCormack moved that the secretary open correspondence with local boards wherever any contagious disease may be reported in public print or otherwise, and in each instance to give directions as to the prevention of the spread of such diseases, and urge upon them the importance of prompt action.

Dr. Holland drew attention to the fact that the balance of credit was sufficient to justify some expenditure for expert opinion and analysis; and the better to secure that end he moved that the following committees be appointed, to make report in time for the next annual publication of the board, with authority to employ experts when necessary:

Dr. Thompson on "Judicial Procedure under our Health Laws."

Dr. Dunlap on "The Public School Buildings."

Dr. McCormack on "Suspected Drinking Waters."

Dr. Holland on "Adulteration of Food and Medicines."

Dr. Speed on "Inspection of Illuminating Oils."

The Committee on Finance reported that they had examined the books and vouchers of the secretary for the fiscal year just ended, and that they were correct, the balance remaining on hand to date being \$1,322.

The board then adjourned.

THE American annual consumption of tea is 65,000,000 lbs. England consumes 145,000,000 lbs.

Selections.

THE BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS.—Drs. Grandle and Woltmann thus terminate a paper on "The Diagnosis of Consumption by means of the Microscope," read at the Chicago Medical Society (Phil. Med. News, February 17th), from a general review of the facts hitherto made known, and their own investigations: "The inevitable conclusions from our own work, as well as that of other observers are, that every case of pulmonary tuberculosis can be diagnosed by means of microscopic examination of the sputum, even before the clinical examination reveals it with certainty; and that when repeated proper examination of the sputum fails to show the bacillus tuberculosis, pulmonary tuberculosis does not exist. To speak with certainty in any case requires, of course, that the observer should have familiarized himself with the methods and possess the proper appliances. Our success has been so invariable that we feel confident enough to challenge the society to produce a case of tuberculosis in which we can not demonstrate the bacilli."

CLIMACTERIC DYSPEPSIA.—Mr. Prangley, at a late meeting of the Norwich Medico-chirurgical Society, England, read a paper on a form of dyspepsia which he termed "climacteric." It occurs in women between the ages of forty and fifty. The symptoms are those of great nervous depression, with pain on the top of the head, noises in the ears, hot flushes and chills, with curious sensations in the abdomen. The dyspeptic symptoms are those of precordial distress, with palpitation, costive bowels, coated tongue, and foul breath. The treatment consists of the administration of bismuth, bicarbonate of potash, and ammonia, adding valerian if the nervous system predominate, followed by quinine, strychnia, and the dilute nitro-hydrochloric acid.

TINCTURE OF DIGITALIS has a more favorable influence to relieve symptoms due to organic heart disease when given in doses of one drop every half-hour, or hour, than when given in larger doses, according to Dr. A. A. Smith, who finds (New York Medical Journal) this method of administration much more satisfactory than the large doses three or four times a day. Castor-oil in doses of five drops every hour in water,

with sugar and gum, he recommends for the diarrhea of children which is accompanied with slight inflammation, straining, and passage of jelly-looking matter, but not true dysentery.—*Weekly Medical Review.*

ODORLESS FECAL MANURE.—At a recent meeting of the Society of Engineers, Mr. Harry Olrick described A New System of Treating Fecal Matter, introduced by Baron de Podewils of Munich. The operations are all performed in closed vessels, so that no unpleasant odors arise; and, by a system of quadruple evaporation, the fuel necessary is reduced to a minimum. The resultant manure is said to be of high quality, and to realize from £9 to £10 per ton. The factory erected at Manchester has been in operation about three years, and, although laboring under the disadvantage of having to use coal costing £1 3s. per ton, is earning twenty per cent dividends.

TWO CASES of fracture of the base of the skull, with recovery, are reported by Mr. Jones, of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, in the Medical Times and Gazette, March 24th. In one there was a free discharge from the ear of a clear fluid, and in the other brain matter escaped. Both cases presented serious cerebral symptoms. Nature cured the cases.

CHLORATE OF POTASSIUM in fine powder has yielded excellent results when dusted on to the surface of ulcers and ulcerating epitheliomata. The surface should be cleansed and the powder dusted thickly on, and twice a day. It relieves pain and promotes healing by changing the character of the morbid processes.—*Weekly Medical Review.*

A CASE of spina bifida successfully treated by injection of Dr. Morton's iodo-glycerine solution, by Mr. E. Muirhead Little, is recorded in the Lancet, March 24th.

ARMY MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

OFFICIAL LIST of Changes of Stations and Duties of Officers of the Medical Department, U. S. A., from March 31, 1883, to April 7, 1883.

Hammond, John F., Colonel and Surgeon, granted leave of absence for six months on surgeon's certificate of disability, with permission to go beyond sea. (Par. 6, S. O. 75, A. G. O., April 2, 1883.) *Hammond, John F.*, Colonel and Surgeon, to be relieved from duty in the Department of the East, and to report by letter to the Surgeon General, U. S. A. (Par. 7, S. O., 75, A. G. O., April 2, 1883.)